

**TESTIMONY**  
**ROBERT WESNIESKI, PRESIDENT**  
**THE AVON WATER COMPANY**  
**COMMERCE COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 24, 2011**

**RE: SB-1020, An Act Concerning Water Resources and Economic Development**

My name is Robert W. Wesneski, President of the Avon Water Company. Our Company is an investor owned public utility servicing 4,700 customers or about 16,000 people in Avon and a small portion of Farmington and Simsbury.

**I submit this testimony in support of SB-1020, An Act Concerning Water Resources and Economic Development.**

Although we support the goal of the stream flow regulations, we are concerned that the current stream flow regulations, which have already been rejected by the legislature's Regulations Review Committee twice, do not sufficiently address the concerns raised by public water suppliers that the proposed regulations will jeopardize the amount of water we need to meet customer needs.

In addition, DEP intends to pursue a phased approach to regulation under Public Act 05-142 to regulate groundwater withdrawals. Without building in protections for our safe yield and margin of safety, this will result in diminished water supplies to meet the needs of our customers.

In addition, the revised regulations continue to create uncertainty regarding how much water will need to be released because the reservoir release requirements are tied to how DEP classifies each river and stream. If all streams utilized by the Company were classified as Class II, then our average daily demand would be short by 2.7 MGD at a replacement cost of \$4,600,000. If the streams were Class III, then the shortage drops to 2.1 MGD at a replacement cost of \$3,600,000.

The water industry and other stakeholder groups are currently participating in discussions with DEP to address these concerns. We are not looking to restart the clock on these discussions. Rather, we are simply trying to amend the enabling act to ensure that it captures the concerns raised by lawmakers in rejecting the regulations so that we do not have to continue to raise these issues every year.

We urge your support for SB-1020.